

IF MY PEOPLE....

by Roger W. Walkwitz

How many times have YOU heard a message on 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land," and heard it applied to the USA or other countries??

Cardinal Jaime Sin, head of the Vatican/Roman Catholic Church system in the Philippines, had large posters with this verse all over the country months before the overthrow of the Marcos regime. When I first saw the poster it angered me to think that Cardinal Sin had the audacity to take this verse out of context with the message that if Filipinos returned seriously to the Catholic Church, then God would heal the Philippines of all its corruption and problems! Since then I have heard it many times in the USA, from pulpits, TV, and publications...as if God would heal the USA if only many people would become Christians, Christians would repent, change society, and serve the church.

How can anyone expect God to do something He never said He would do? **2 Chron 7:14 has nothing to do with the Philippines, the USA, or any other country...but only to Jews and Eretz Yisrael (Land of Israel.)** When the early eklesia became corrupted with gentile domination in the 4th Century CE(AD), it taught that God was finished with the Jews, that all the blessings of God throughout the Bible now applied to the "church" (Roman Catholic & Eastern Orthodox), that this "church" was the new Israel, but of course all the curses still applied to the Jews. This "theology" goes by various names, as Replacement, Dominion, Kingdom, etc., and is responsible for disastrous handling of the Bible, for much of anti-Semitism, and for treating 2 Chron 7:14 this way. So let's take a look and see what it really says.

The context begins in 2 Chron 5, when the Temple that God allowed Solomon to build

was finished and it was time for the dedication. Everything is set up. In chap 6, Solomon gives a short message to all the people and then a long prayer, citing 6 categories of potential sin by the people of Israel and resultant disciplinary action by God. If the people recognize their sin, repent, and pray to God **IN THIS HOUSE IN JERUSALEM**, then Solomon asks that God hear from heaven, forgive their sin and restore the situation to normal. Solomon even asks for the foreigner who comes to this Temple in Jerusalem to sincerely worship God, that God would answer his prayer as well. Everything focuses on this Temple since God has chosen Jerusalem and this Temple to symbolize His presence on earth.

In chapter 7 God answers by sending down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifices, and His glory fills the new Temple. During this time Solomon and all Israel are celebrating Sukkot (Festival of Booths) and in 7:10 he sends the people home, on the 23rd of Tishrei. Soon thereafter Yehovah appears to Solomon at night and responds to Solomon's prayer, saying (7:12-22), "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself...If I shut up the heavens and there is no rain...If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and



pray...Now my eyes shall be open and my ears attentive to the prayer in this place. For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever, and my eyes and my heart shall be there perpetually...But if you turn away...then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house...will I cast out of my sight..."

The total context is of Yehovah and Israel at the Temple in Jerusalem...no other place and no other people, unless a gentile recognizes

Yehovah, worships Yehovah, and comes to the Temple in Jerusalem to pray. **It is no wonder that Jewish people worldwide and for centuries have revered the Temple Mount, because Yehovah said His name, His eyes, and His heart would be there perpetually!** That is why they come there to pray and send written prayers to be stuffed in to the chinks between the stone blocks. That is why on January 3, 1994, about 10,000 mostly Israeli teen-agers gathered at the Western Wall to pray for an end to the peace pact with the PLO, appealing to God because the government has ignored them.

That is why, on June 14, 1967, one week after the retaking of Jerusalem, 200,000 Israelis gathered at the Western Wall, repented and prayed, led by the Chief Chaplain Rabbi Goren. Maybe that is why the Messianic Jewish movement began to spring up at the same time.

This promise was given to King Solomon, leader of the nation of Israel. The people called by God's name are the Israelis and the land referred to is the Land of Israel. The Land of Israel is the only land where the weather, fertility, pestilence, security, etc. are controlled by Yehovah as disciplinary measures for His people, Israel. For the Israelis to get out from under the disciplinary measures, they must follow the procedures of 2 Chron 7:14, officially as a nation, led by their leaders.

Christians may claim to be God's people, but only when they recognize they are from

the wild olive tree and by the grace of God have been grafted in **AMONG** (not replacing) the natural branches (Jews) of the good olive tree, and share with the Jews the blessings God gave to them as His witnesses. Furthermore, Christians cannot claim that any land on this planet has been given to them by God. (Vatican City might make that claim!) What land is God going to heal? What land do Christians have that has its weather, fertility, pestilence, security, etc. directly controlled by God for disciplinary reasons?

The use of 2 Chron 7:14 by and for anyone other than that specified is a gross misuse of the Word of God. For myself, I have prayed at the Western Wall several times in accordance with 2 Chron 6:32-33 (for the foreigner.) It has been a blessing!

Does not repentance and prayer bring forgiveness? Yes, for the Believer only, but 2 Chron 7:14 is not the basis. 1 John 1:9 is the basis for Believers in Yeshua today, individually or small group, Jew and gentile, but no land is involved and no specific place for repentance and prayer is involved.

Is 2 Chron 7:14 valid for Israel today? **ABSOLUTELY!!** If the nation of Israel, together with its leaders, went to the Western Wall to seriously implement this verse, Yehovah would act accordingly! Maybe this should be part of our Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem.

Let us all be careful in our use of the Bible and **HOW WE TEACH IT TO OTHERS!!**

